

## **LOBBYING DISCLOSURE—SECTION 23-17**

### § 23-17. Lobbying disclosure.

#### A. Registration statement required.

(1) Any person who engages in lobbying before the County Council with the intent to influence the Council in the performance of its duties and who receives \$500 or more in a calendar year as compensation for the performance of the lobbying activities or who incurs expenses of \$100 or more in a calendar year or expends \$100 or more in a calendar year on food, entertainment or gifts in the course of the lobbying shall file a registration statement with the Board not later than January 15 of the calendar year or within 5 calendar days after first engaging in lobbying activities.

(2) Any person who engages in lobbying before any official or employee other than members of the County Council and who, during the calendar year, spends in excess of \$100 on food, entertainment or other gifts for any such official or employee in connection with these activities shall file a registration statement with the Board not later than January 15 of the calendar year or within 5 calendar days after engaging in lobbying activities.

B. The registration statement shall identify the registrant, each person on whose behalf the registrant acts, and the subject matter on which the registrant proposes to lobby, and shall cover a defined registration period not to exceed 1 calendar year.

C. Registrants under this section shall file reports within 30 calendar days after the end of any calendar year during which they were registered, disclosing:

(1) Total expenditures on acts requiring registration in each of the following categories:

(a) Total compensation paid to the registrant, not including expenses reported under Paragraphs (b) through (i) of this subsection or salaries, compensation and reimbursed expenses for the staff of the registrant;

(b) Office expenses of the registrant not reported in Paragraph (a) of this subsection;

(c) Professional and technical research and assistance not reported in Paragraph (a) of this subsection;

(d) Publications which expressly encourage persons to communicate with officials or employees;

(e) Names of witnesses, and the fees and expenses paid to each;

(f) Meals and beverages for officials or employees or their family members;

(g) Special events, including parties, dinners, athletic events, entertainment, and other functions to which all members of the County Council or governing body of an agency are invited;

(h) Expenses for food, lodging, and scheduled entertainment of officials and employees for a meeting which is given in return for participation in a panel or speaking engagement at the meeting;

(i) Other gifts to or for officials or employees or the family members of either; and

(j) Other expenses;

(2) The name of each official or employee, or family member of the official or employee, who has benefited from gifts with a cumulative value of \$75 or more during the reporting period given by the registrant or anyone acting in behalf of the registrant, not given in connection with the registrant's lobbying activities, with each gift itemized by date, beneficiary, amount or value, and nature of the gift; and

(3) Expenses reported in Subsections (1)(g) and (h) of this section need not be allocated to individual officials or employees, but for each such event the date, location and total expense incurred by the registrant shall be stated.

D. Registrations and reports filed pursuant to this Article shall be maintained by the Board as public records and shall be available for public inspection and copying.